

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EURE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SAB-01 /068 W

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P R 051700Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6748

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 795

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, EEC, XF, EI

SUBJECT: IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT THE MIDDLE EAST

REFS: DUBLIN 755 AND PREVIOUS (NOTAL)

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1. GOI FOREIGN MINISTRY PERMANENT SECRETARY PAUL KEATING INFORMED

CHARGE TODAY, MAY 5, THAT FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD IS PLANNING A MIDDLE EAST TRIP IN THE PERIOD MAY 19 - 25. HE PLANS TO VISIT AMMAN, BEIRUT, DAMASCUS AND CAIRO, IN THAT ORDER. KEATING ASKED THAT WE KEEP THE TRIP IN CONFIDENCE "FOR THE TIME BEING".

2. KEATING SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN ASKED TO INFORM US THAT FITZGERALD WAS NOT UNDERTAKING THIS TRIP WITH ANY SPECIFIC NEW MANDATE FROM HIS EC COLLEAGUES ALTHOUGH THEY HAD BEEN INFORMED AND HAD APPROVED. FITZGERALD LOOKED ON THE VISITS AS "BASICALLY BILATERAL" IN NATURE ALTHOUGH HE INTENDED TO USE THE TALKS TO INFORM HIMSELF IN THE ROLE OF THE IRISH PRESIDENCY OF THE EC AND WITHIN "THE GENERAL MANDATE OF EC CONCERNS WITH MIDDLE EAST DEVELOPMENTS AND THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE."

3. KEATING EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR ONGOING BRIEFINGS BOTH IN DUBLIN AND WITH IRISH EMBOFFS IN WASHINGTON. FITZGERALD, HE ADDED, DID NOT WANT "TO CROSS UP ANY WIRES" IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND HOPED THAT WE COULD REMAIN IN CONTACT DURING THE TWO WEEKS BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE. FOR EXAMPLE, THE GOI FULLY REALIZED THAT ASPECTS OF U. S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY WERE UNDER RE-EXAMINATION AND IT WAS NOT CLEAR WHEN THIS WOULD PRODUCE ANY FIRM VIEWS OF NEW COURSES OF ACTION. NEVERTHELESS, ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OR EASSESSMENT THAT THE USG COULD PROVIDE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

. COMMENT: CONCERNING KEATING'S REFERENCE TO THE EURO-ARAB DIALOGUE (PARA 2 ABOVE), THE IRISH HAVE NOT BEEN VERY FORTHCOMING BUT WE UNDERSTAND FROM OTHER POSTS' REPORTING THAT A SCENARIO AND TIMETABLE ARE UNFOLDING. GOI IS WEAKLY REPRESENTED IN THE ARAB WORLD AND PROBABLY LACKS CONFIDENCE. WE BELIEVE THE FITZGERALD TRIP PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY, IF THE DEPARTMENT HAS ANY ADDITIONAL INPUT ON THIS SUBJECT THAT COULD USEFULLY BE PUT BEFORE THE IRISH OR THE EC.
REND AHL

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